

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of ) Group Art Unit: Unassigned  
Hiroaki SANO et al. ) Examiner: Unassigned  
Application No.: Unassigned ) Confirmation No.: Unassigned  
Filed: February 28, 2005 )  
For: TUBE CONNECTING APPARATUS )  
AND TUBE CONNECTION METHOD )  
(As Amended) )

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to examination, kindly amend the above-captioned application as follows: